

February 10, 1976

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, I voted for the amendments because I want to see the bill intact for one time. Secondly, to answer Senator Lewis' remarks is that I received national copies of model school board policies and I have yet to see one that goes beyond two pages on how you meet the Goss vs. Lopez decision and that is what bothers me about this whole bill is that fact that we spell out every step of the way, every procedure. I also know that school board members under court order today can be charged with omissions in the business of trying to care for the students and the curricular school system so this is not new to me and I think it is too bad that the Nebraska State School Boards didn't see fit to bring the legislation themselves because that really is their major business, setting policy and protecting the rights of the boys and girls in the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature and Senator Koch, particularly, this is not an exclusive province of any organization, any group or any individual. Anybody who has a proposal that will benefit school children or help the educational process I think not only has the right but an obligation to bring forth that program. It would be something like saying a person with cancer could not go to the doctor because he doesn't have the cure. Whoever has something to offer that is going to solve a problem should be given credit for what they have offered and the proposal should be judged on its merits, and as for the number of pages, I don't think that determines anything about the validity or non-validity of a bill. I am not going to argue the merits of it because it has been done sufficiently here and in the Committee. The bill is necessary. I find things that I object to, and if you want to see a tight bill, if I wrote what I thought should be in it, this might do for the introduction. So I think a bill like this is an attempt to get the best possible thing that you can..oh, he held up the white flag so I will stop.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler, do you have any further debate on close?

SENATOR FOWLER: I would simply stress that this bill has been discussed now for over a year. It was before the Education Committee that Senator Koch sat on and the Education Committee after hearing the bill went over and put out this draft. We now have had additional amendments based on lengthy discussions with the School Board Association. We have tried to gather input from objections from school districts across the state. The issue is not discipline. The issue is not due process. That is in our United States Constitution and it is going to take quite an extensive process to alter that. The question is, in what way should Nebraska statutes define due process. I think that this will